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November 8, 1962

WASHINGTON EMBASSY REPORTS RE EVENTS IN CUBA

DENY

November 7:

The semi-circular concave concrete objects (8 meters wide at the base and 2 meters high) are being used to hide things underground at Campo Torrens and at neighboring farms evacuated by owners. Excavations are covered with palm leaves and then photographed from helicopters in order to be able to find them afterwards.

Work goes on in three shifts in the Cordillera de los Organos, Pinar del Rio. Camouflaged tunnels were seen at Lomas de Rubi. Work is going on furiously at Lomas de Anafe, close to Gaimito, Habana province. Explosions were heard recently at Bauta, close to Lomas de Anafe, which Communists explain as shelling of bases. Source suspects that the explosions really represent construction of underground bases. Underground rocket sites are being built close to Sagua La Grande, Camaguey, and should be finished by the end of this month.

The above-ground parts of the base at San Cristobal, Soroca and Sagua La Grande are being dismantled. Parts of these bases were hidden in nearby cane fields in the aforementioned concave concrete objects and were also photographed from the air.

Around Limonar, Matanzas Province, six covered heavy trailers were driven in the direction of Matanzas but turned from there after reaching Madruga, where they were put into underground tunnels in the hills of Lomas de Posito. Work on these goes on day and night.

Last week 200 Soviet criminal prisoners are said to have been transported back to the Soviet Union on a Soviet freighter. Numbers had been burnt on their right wrists.

Yesterday counter-revolutionary groups (Estrella Solitaria, MRR, DNE, MAR, 20th of May) and guerrilla groups fighting in the Escambray called Manoyo and Fogazo agreed to unite into an organization called the Movimiento Nacional de Liberacion. The strength of this organization is estimated by this source at around 15,000 to 20,000 men.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE A/CDC/MR

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EVALUATED BY RB/K DATE 3/8/88

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November 7: Daily press devotes a great deal of space to anniversary of Russian Revolution. All papers also carry speeches affirming Russo-Cuban friendship by Carlos Rafael Rodriguez and Soviet Ambassador at celebration before a large and enthusiastic audience.

Curious that Castro was not present at local celebration of 45th anniversary. Raul and Che also absent. Local speculation that Mikoyan has not yet "sweetened" Castro.

ARA:GMA:CHS/smb

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